

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for removing mercury compounds from a glycol- and/or alcohol- containing stream which contains said mercury compounds comprising the step of contacting said glycol- and/or alcohol-containing stream with a bed of solid absorbent particles, said absorbent particles comprising a sulphided metal, ~~optionally supported on support material,~~ or sulphur supported on a carbon support.
2. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorbent particles are said sulphided metal and said sulphided metal is selected from the group consisting of iron sulphide, copper sulphide and nickel sulphide or a mixture of said metal sulphides.
3. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein said absorbent particles further comprise alumina or a refractory cement.
4. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1—3~~ claim 1, wherein said absorbent particles further comprise zinc oxide, zinc carbonate or zinc bicarbonate.
5. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1—4~~ claim 1 wherein said absorbent particles are said sulphided metal and said sulphided metal is formed by treating a metal compound with hydrogen sulphide, carbonyl sulphide, a mercaptan or a polysulphide.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~a~~ A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1—5~~ claim 1, wherein the glycol- and/or alcohol- containing stream is contacted with said solid absorbent particles at a pressure of less than or equal to 350 bar and a temperature which is less than or equal to 50°C.
7. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1—6~~ claim 1 wherein said absorbent particles are said sulphided metal and said sulphided metal is formed in situ in the absorbent bed by contacting an absorbent precursor with a sulphur-containing compound in the glycol- and/or alcohol- containing stream.
8. A process for removing water, sulphur compounds and/or carbon dioxide from a hydrocarbon-containing stream which additionally contains at least one compound of mercury or elemental mercury comprising:

a) contacting the hydrocarbon stream with a liquid absorbent stream, comprising a glycol and/or an alcohol, thereby to absorb at least some of the water, sulphur compounds and/or carbon dioxide and mercury from the hydrocarbon stream into the liquid absorbent stream, to form a loaded liquid absorbent stream which contains mercury compounds; and

b) removing said mercury compounds from said loaded liquid absorbent stream using a process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1—7~~ claim 1 to form a treated liquid absorbent stream containing a reduced concentration of mercury compared with the loaded liquid absorbent stream

~~c) optionally, drying the treated liquid absorbent stream,~~

~~to form a liquid absorbent stream which may be recirculated to step a), optionally after mixing with a fresh liquid absorbent stream.~~

9. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said absorbent particles are said sulphided metal, and said sulphided metal is supported on a support material.

10. (New) A process for removing water as claimed in claim 8 further comprising:

c) drying the treated liquid absorbent stream.

11. (New) A process for removing water as claimed in claim 10 further comprising recirculating the liquid absorbent stream from step c) to step a).

12. (New) A process for removing water as claimed in claim 11, wherein the recirculating is done after mixing the liquid absorbent stream from step c) with a fresh liquid absorbent stream.